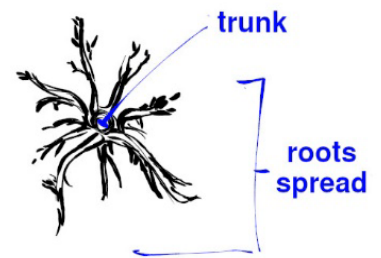


## Instructions for Planting Bare Root Trees

1. Unpack your tree carefully. **Do not allow roots to dry.** If bare root, soak in water for up to an hour, which also makes it easy to detangle the roots. If tree is in a pot, carefully remove the pot and tease the roots out of the soil so they are spread out. You do not want the roots to circle in the ground when planted.

top down view of roots

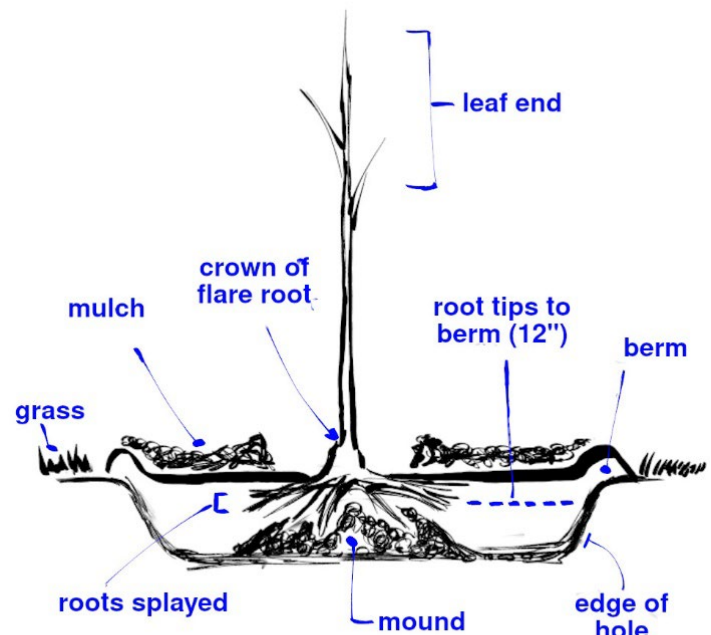


2. Remove the grass in a 3 foot circle to eliminate competition with the roots of your new tree. Spread out the roots wide and dig a hole 12 inches wider for growth. **Do Not Dig Too Deep!** Dig only deep enough to accept the stiffest big roots that extend down before turning outward.

3. **Form a low, wide cone of the original soil in the bottom of the hole.** Do not add amendments such as peat or compost to the soil. Planting into the loosened, original soil will encourage the roots, and create a stable, healthy tree.

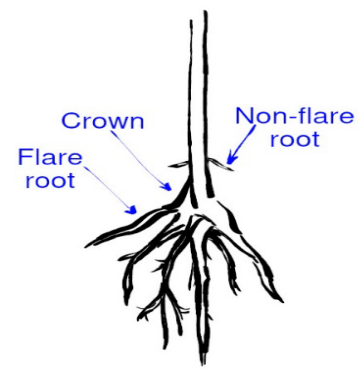
4. To plant: **Locate the tree's "flare roots"**. They are thicker at the trunk, and then become narrower. **Spread the roots over the soil cone.** Adjust as necessary, so the **crown** (uppermost flare root-trunk junction) sits at the natural ground level. If the soil cone is made of loose soil, plant the crown slightly higher (1/2" to 3/4") to allow for settling after planting. **Do not plant too deep.** Planting the crown too deep is a common cause for plant failure.

5. While holding the plant upright, begin backfilling the hole, pressing soil around and between the roots. Use your hands, or use water, to firm the soil and eliminate air pockets. Continue adding backfill and firming it until you've filled the hole. (Don't stamp on the roots)



6. **Construct a 3-4" high ridge of soil around the outer edge of the planting hole.** This berm will create a basin to allow irrigation water to concentrate over the roots. Use a hose or bucket gently to fill the basin, and then allow the water to soak in. Repeat several times. The goal is to ensure even watering, so the soil is drenched and any large air pockets are eliminated.

7. For the first two weeks after planting, check the soil every two-four days. Water if the soil feels warm and/or dry. During the third-fourth weeks, check the soil for warmth and dryness every five to six days. If so, then water. Check weekly throughout the first year to keep your soil cool and moist, but not wet or soggy. Keep watering for the whole year!
8. **Add mulch** but never closer than three to four inches away from the trunk to guard against rot and parasitic insects. **Do not fertilize** the new tree or planting hole.
9. To protect the tree from rabbits and deer, you may use chicken wire or metal fencing/hardware cloth outside the planting hole. (You may need to do this for a few years. Bucks love to rub antlers on trees even two-three inches in diameter.) Do not wrap the tree trunk.
10. Keep a watch on your leaves for insect damage. For example, if you see Japanese Beetles on your Basswood, drop the bugs into soapy water held in a jar under the leaf.



11. For more information, check out:

\* Macunovich and Nikkila:

<https://gardenatoz.org/about-us>

\* Macunovich and Nikkila: <https://gardenatoz.org/whats-up/tip-cuttings/oaks-got-flare/>

\* Arbor Day: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/planting/bare-root.cfm>